

The Afro Rhythms Show

Produced by Jayson

April 2, 2006

Rhythms from the African continent.

Artists explored:

- **Franco and OK Jazz:** “Of all the fabled dance bands in Africa, OK Jazz stands out for the quality of music, the quantity of output and their pan-African influence. Led by the legendary guitarist, singer and composer Franco Luambo Makiadi, the band were pre-eminent in Africa for over 30 years, linking the first generation of Congo rumba with the later exuberance of Zairean soukous. From their roots as a small collective of hot-shot session players, OK Jazz evolved into a massive organisation and Franco's personal reputation was never equalled. Throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s, OK Jazz was the yardstick for African dance music And this is where it all started.” --- RetroAfric.com
- **Mulatu Astatqé:** “[T]he work of formidable musician-arranger Mulatu Astatqé, the ... instrumentals here were originally issued ... in 1972 and 1974 in Ethiopia, and represent a curious blend of soul-jazz and R&B with just a smattering of Ethiopian roots breaking up the stabbing horn lines, wah-wah guitars, and simmering electric piano. ... The grooves are long and laconic, the sound reminiscent of Miles Davis's "In a Silent Way" paired with Cannonball Adderly and Roy Ayers.” --- Derek Rath, Amazon.com.
- **Fèqadu Amdè-Mesqel:** Couldn't find any descriptions on this artist, but seems safe to say he knows and works with Mulatu Astatqé.
- **Ali Farka Toure:** “Ali Farka Toure was a Malian singer and guitarist and one of the African continent's most internationally renowned musicians. His music is at the crossroad of traditional Malian music (one of the main roots of contemporary North American blues) and modern feedback influences from North American and English blues.” Wikipedia. He died on March 7, 2006 from bone cancer. RIP
- **Thomas Mapfumo:** “Thomas Mapfumo ... is responsible for blending traditional [Zimbabwean] Shona mbira music with western instruments and a political message full of innuendo and traditional proverbs. He established the musical style, chimurenga, ... which is based on the ... chiming, cyclical rhythms, patterns and melodies of the mbira resulting in a hypnotic almost trance-like music. Mapfumo took that traditional music and added electric guitars, horns, and a drum kit. With his electronic interpretations of traditional mbira music he became a huge star in Zimbabwe.” --- The African Music Encyclopedia
- **Udokotela Shange Namajaha:** From the CDUniverse.com review of The Indestructible Beat of Soweto: “'60s Africa found the Zulu and Sotho beginning to incorporate the influences of African American R&B, jazz, and blues into their traditional, indigenous music. New styles such as township jazz, pennywhistle street music, Kwela, and marabi were formed. Eventually, these myriad styles coalesced to create a new hybrid pop music that came to be known as mbaqanga. Though mbaqanga employs the traditional instrumentation of Western pop (guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, and vocals), the approach to song structure and rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrasing is uniquely African. Recorded between 1981 and 1984, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE BEAT OF SOWETO is the first (and arguably the best) of a slew of South African pop recordings that soon followed. Characterized by insistent, rhythmically complex beats, elastic,

bubbling basslines, tight, ska-sounding guitar accompaniment, and thick, multi-part vocals.”

- **D’Gary:** A Malagasy player from Madagascar, D’Gary is a guitar virtuoso with a thoroughly unique style. He favors open tunings and droning rhythms. --- Me
- **Tinariwen:** “Tinariwen is a Tuareg band whose trancey Sahara desert blues served as the musical soundtrack to a fierce fight against discrimination, passed via cassette from camel to 4x4 to taxi across the region.” --- Putumayo

“Several of the Tinariwen band members have been living in refugee camps in Libya and have been under military support and education by Mohammar Ghaddafi’s government. In these camps many Tuaregs for the first time heard music by artists like Bob Marley, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. And they were introduced to the instrument that first and foremost stands as a symbol of rebellion among young people all over the world: The electric guitar. The group members gradually changed guns with guitars and Tinariwen has electrified the traditional Tuareg music.” --- The Leopardman’s African Music Guide

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Song	Artist	Album
1. La Fiesta	Franco & OK Jazz (1956)	Originalite
2. Tcha Tcha Tcha De Mi Amor	Franco & OK Jazz (1956)	Originalite
3. Yèkèrmo Sèw	Mulatu Astatqé	Ethiopiennes Vol. 4: Ethio Jazz & Musique Instrumentale, 1969-1974
4. Netsanet	Mulatu Astatqé	Africa Funk
5. Asmarina	Fèqadu Amdè-Mesqel	Ethiopiennes Vol. 4: Ethio Jazz & Musique Instrumentale 1969-1974
6. Instrumental	Ali Farka Toure	Niafunke
7. Asco	Ali Farka Toure	Niafunke
8. Africa	Thomas Mapfumo	Chimurenga Singles (1976 - 1980)
9. Chauya Chirzevh	Thomas Mapfumo	Chimurenga Singles (1976 - 1980)
10. Awungilobolele	Udokotela Shange Namajaha	Indestructible Beat Of Soweto Volume One
11. Raininy	D’Gary	Malagasy Guitar
12. Aldhechen Manin	Tinariwen	Amassakoul
13. Mataraden Anexan	Tinariwen	The Radio Tisdas Sessions